Azwal Point: The Geographical Heart of Tamazgha

Coordinates: 26.55° N, 4.45° E

Location: Central Algeria, northern Sahara

Significance: Geographical center of Tamazgha — the ancestral homeland of the Amazigh (Berber) people.

Introduction

Deep within the sweeping sands of central Algeria lies a point of quiet yet powerful symbolism — the **Azwal Point (ⵄⵣⵡⵍⵄⵉⵏ ⵏ ⵜⴰⵎⴰⵣⵖⵄ)**, located at **26.55° N, 4.45° E**. This intersection is not chosen at random but mathematically derived from the **geographic midpoints** of the Tamazgha region, the cultural and historical homeland of the Amazigh people stretching from **Siwa Oasis in Egypt** to the **Canary Islands**, and from the **Mediterranean coast** to the **Sahel**.

How the Azwal Point (ⵄⵣⵍⵄⵍ) Was Defined

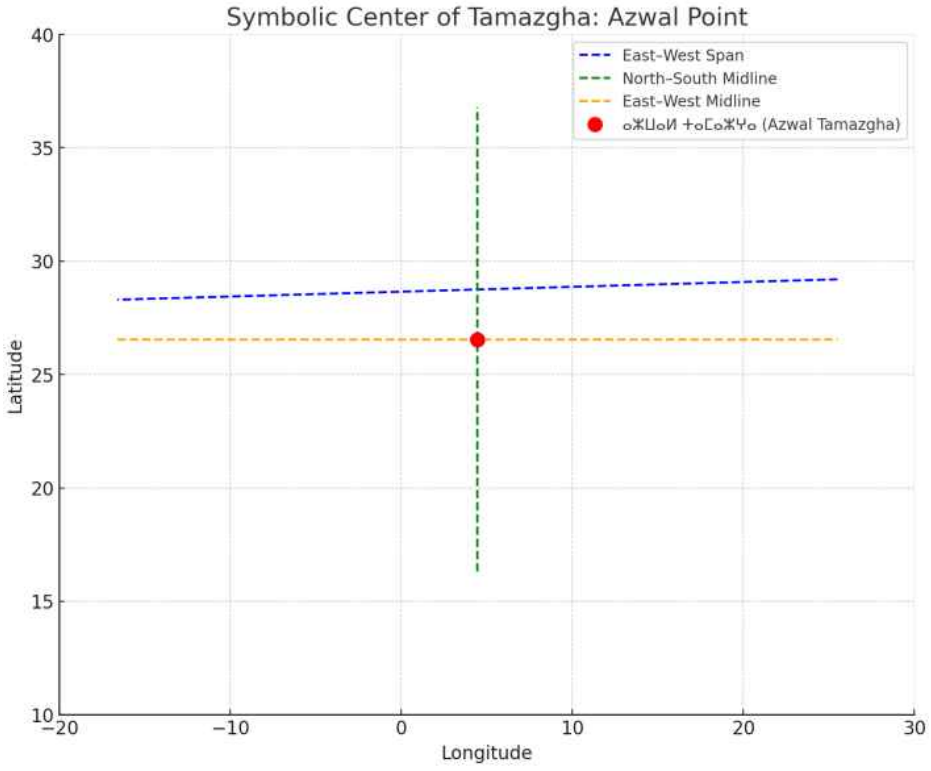
-East–West Midpoint:

- The Tamazgha region spans from **-16.6° W (Canary Islands)** to **25.5° E (Siwa Oasis)**.
- → Midpoint Longitude: **4.45° E**

-North–South Midpoint:

- The region stretches from **36.8° N (coastal Mediterranean)** to **16.3° N (Sahel edge)**.
- → Midpoint Latitude: **26.55° N**

The intersection of these two axes lands in the heart of the **northern Sahara**, between **Ghardaïa** (Taɣerdayt) and **Ouargla** (Wargrən), a region long associated with **Amazigh heritage**, particularly the Mozabite and Tuareg tribes.



Cultural and Historical Relevance

Azwal Point lies not only in the geographic center of Tamazgha, but also near the symbolic heart of **Amazigh resilience and continuity**. The surrounding areas have long hosted **autonomous communities**, ancient trade routes, and preserved Amazigh language and culture despite centuries of external domination.

The name **"Azwal"** is drawn from Tamazight languages and can mean "**center**, **core**, or axis**" — fitting for a place that embodies the unifying intersection of a diverse and widespread people.

What Can Be Done at Azwal Point?

1. A Monument of Unity

A grand **Amazigh Monument of Unity** could be built to honor the cultural and geographical center of Tamazgha. Design inspirations could include:

- Stone architecture resembling ancient Berber fortresses (ksour).
- Inscriptions in **Tifinagh**, the Amazigh script.
- A flame or star symbol at the summit, visible for kilometers.

2. A Crossroads of Cultures Park

An open-air cultural park representing **Amazigh tribes and languages** from across Tamazgha:

- Pavilions for **Rif**, **Kabyle**, **Tuareg**, **Shilha**, **Mozabite**, **Zuwara**, and **Siwi** communities.
- Rotating cultural exhibitions, storytelling circles, and music festivals.

3. The Tamazgha Compass

A large ground-level **"compass rose" monument** showing the directions and distances to key Amazigh landmarks:

- Tizi-Ouzou, Agadir, Timbuktu, Siwa, Canary Islands, and more.
- Laser-etched stone paths leading outward, symbolizing diaspora and unity.

4. Astronomical and Spiritual Significance

Due to the flat terrain and dark skies, Azwal Point could host:

- An **Astronomical observatory** — linking ancient Amazigh star knowledge with modern astronomy.

- A **reflection dome** or peace sanctuary, representing **reconnection with nature and roots**.

Conclusion

The **Azwal Point** is not just coordinates on a map — it is a symbol of **balance, belonging, and being**. In a world of shifting borders and identities, anchoring Tamazgha's cultural geography to a central, sacred point is both an act of remembrance and a call for unity.

By investing in this unique geographic and cultural intersection, Tamazgha’s peoples can build a **shared future grounded in common origin**, identity, and pride.